

To: Joel Orosz  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

December 1, 2000

From: Eric P. Newman

Your interesting letter of November 24, 2000 has taken priority in my correspondence (1) because of your enthusiastic research and your excellent and extensive writing and (2) because I won't be able to sleep well until I give you my thinking on your inquiry. I therefore took 2 hours to find my letter to Fred Boyd dated September 27, 1951, a copy of which is enclosed. You must realize that with over 60 years of correspondence and data in our numismatic files there are some matters under personal names, some under firm names, some on subject or topics, some under written articles, some under mixed pickles, some not filed, etc. Much of it is before photocopies or computers. It is not easy to find what I seek or to remember everything I did or didn't do or know.

Fred Boyd and I were very good friends and he encouraged my research so extensively I was delighted to do anything he wanted. He had loads of coins and I had a nice pile myself. He wanted some varieties of my Massachusetts silver and I sent them to him. He asked me if I wanted a silver center cent. I visited him in July 1951 and he handed me 2 dimes and 2 silver center cents and said take one and give me back the rest. I realized he was testing me so I took all of them when I realized at least one was an electro and said I would return three as he wished. All were fake except one silver center cent which was lovely. He knew that. There were a few other items in the exchange.

Now you want to know where did Fred obtain that silver center cent. You indicate the University of Pennsylvania deaccessioned the Miller and Brock collections in 1952 and Mehl advertised much of that material for sale in 1953. So the record appears.

Mehl apparently only purchased what was offered to him of the immense holding and customarily sold the stuff as fast as he could. I wish I could ask B.G. Johnson but he died beforehand.

You say that the Morris-Miller collection had a silver center cent and you can prove it. You may do so as I am most interested.

I believe you are misinterpreting the "1792 Large Pattern Cent" expression used in 1901. This has to be a Birch cent as the silver center cent would be described as small if its size were mentioned.

Now the fun really begins so please be comfortably seated as you read on. It is not well known what happened to the Miller-Brock and other University of Pennsylvania holdings of Colonial, Confederation and early US pattern coins. My hearsay indicates Philip Ward, who was a graduate and possible trustee of the University of Pennsylvania and an autograph, stamp and coin dealer in Philadelphia worked on at least the Brock

coin collection in anticipation of the expiration in 1952 of the 1892 sixty year restriction on the sale of the Brock coins. The University wanted to purchase some Egyptian antiquities with the proceeds of its coins. Ward readied the coins (perhaps it included Miller pieces also) for disposition and is said to have been permitted to receive some pieces for himself in appreciation for his work. The released pieces were primarily the Colonial, Confederation and early U.S. pattern coins, not what was sold to Mehl. Whether any Ward gift to the University or a sale to Ward took place at the time I do not know. The released pieces were from time to time turned over by Ward to Charles J. Dockhus (another Philadelphia autograph and coin dealer who could barely write) for sale. There were many superb pieces in the Ward group. The extended private sales by Dockhus of those pieces began as early as 1951 and lasted through 1958. Dockhus wrote to me on one occasion that items he offered me were from "Potts/Miller collections" (I do not know who Potts is so please advise me).

In 1958 Dockhus offered me a 1792 Disme and a 1792 Silver Center Cent for \$1,200 total and I replied that I already had them. I am advised that the silver center cent then went from Dockhus to Forman to Ford to Norweb. I hope the above information which I can only verify in part is a help to you.

As far as our silver center cent is concerned it might have come to Boyd for appraising the E.H. R. Green Estate which he did a part of. Boyd could have obtained it elsewhere. This you can straighten out for me.

I will work on the matter further but wanted to let you know the above first. Keep me informed about my piece as I do not know its earlier history and never really was fascinated by pedigrees when I obtained coins long ago because Johnson told me pedigrees were often concocted. You and others are now straightening out these matters.

Thrive and Happy Holidays,

P.S. In my opinion our silver center cent is in much better condition than described in the Ruhin study. I do not think Ruhin ever saw it so he must have accepted the comment of another who might not have seen it either.

Sept 2002  
Eric P. Newman

In the book written by Frank H. Stewart entitled  
The History of the First U.S. Mint (1924) the expenses  
of the Mint are detailed. The Mint was at 7th & Arch  
Streets in Philadelphia, PA.

The payments include:

May 1, 1795 The Institution for Schooling Blacks,  
under care of people called Quakers, 2 years  
ground rent of lot on which the Mint stands  
@ 7 £ 17s 6d ~~42.00~~ 42.00

May 1, 1797 School for Educating negroes,  
1 year rent £ 7 17s 6d 21.00

Nov. 29, 1797 School for educating negroes,  
1 year rent of lot ~~£~~ 2 £ 8s 9d 6.50

April 10, 1798 Trustees for the negro schools  
for rent 27.50

August 9, 1800 Overseers of the Blacks'  
Free School one year ground rent 27.50

(The May 1, 1797 and November 1797 rent are  
in the aggregate the rent for 1 year ~~£~~  
because the rent was increased from ~~£~~ 21 to 27.50

(The original records of the Mint and Treasury  
Department have not located these records.  
since Mr. Stewart examined them over 75  
years ago.

Stewart Hist of First US Mint

175  
p. 176 Stewart  
~~#~~

Feb 21, 1794 Henry Voigt, cash paid by him  
for 24 weights of brass for the Mint. 10.08

June 23, 1794 John Brinckhurst  
4 sets of money scales and weights 34.00

Nov 6, 1794 Thomas Bradley, large pair of  
Copper scales 8.00

Aug 15, 1798 John Goodman, Jr for <sup>a</sup> scale  
beam 80.00

p. 65 3/22/02 Inventory

Six scale beams, scales and weights

Two sets assay scales and sundry  
adjustment scales.

Subj: Re: My problem  
Date: 02/29/2004 3:45:34 PM Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Joel:

Thank you so much for the search for the \$ sign in Jefferson's papers. You found exactly the type of entry I was seeking. I will check Peter Force's American State Papers volume which was published in 1832 to see what it says. It would be perfectly natural for Jefferson to use it in the context you provided because the great advantage of the \$ sign was using it in exchange calculation matters or invoice calculations. If it is true I will try to point out my error in saying Jefferson never used the \$ sign. You were a great help. Eric

Tom  
Please find this  
and make a  
photocopy of  
that part of the page  
Eric

Subj: **A request from Len Augsburg**  
Date: 9/7/2007 10:56:03 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From:  
To:

Dear Eric:

A fair amount of water has flowed under the bridge since last we were in touch, so I should start out this message by congratulating you and Evelyn on your new museum. My vast network of stoolies and spies informs me that it provides a splendid home for your unparalleled collections of coins, bills and numismatic literature. I have not been to see it yet, but that is a deficiency I hope to remedy in the not too distant future.

In the meantime, however, I have a request to pass along to you from my friend and research partner, Leonard (Len) Augsburg. Len is a young scholar of real depth and great discipline, with a strong specialty in the Gobrecht issues, but a wide-ranging interest that covers virtually all eras and most topics in the American field. For more than a year now, Len and I have been grappling with the shade of Frank Huling Stewart, reconstructing his effort to save at least one building from the first Mint, delving into the artwork he commissioned to commemorate it, and tracing the way in which images that Stewart created, commissioned, or saved have shaped—by inspiring reproductions in both highbrow art and lowbrow popular culture—our perceptions of the first Mint. Whitman is considering publishing this book; we are in the very early stages of writing it (and still are doing research on it).

However, the request from Len has to do, not with the book we are doing together, but rather the book he previously wrote on the Baltimore Gold Coin Hoard discovered by two impoverished teenagers in the early 1930s. I have reviewed the manuscript, Eric, and it is remarkable. Len has delved into legal records and used his genealogical skills to trace, and interview, descendants of the two young discoverers, allowing him to debunk decades of lies, lore and twice-told tales. It has been accepted for publication by the Maryland Historical Society, but Len is still in need of a respected numismatist to write the Foreword.

Therefore, he has asked me if I would sound you out on the possibility of your writing a foreword for the book. Len would be happy to share a copy of the manuscript with you should you want to review it before making a decision. Is this something you might consider? If so, I would be happy to put you two engineers (Len's day job is with Motorola) into contact with each other.

Many thanks, Eric, for considering this request.

Joel

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Email and AIM finally together. You've gotta check out free [AOL Mail](#)!

Dear Joel:

It was very pleasant to hear from you and to hope that you might come to visit our museum. You are very welcome and I hope I can be present to show you some of its features and ask you for suggestions. I am presently writing one book, revising another while finishing a major article. Perhaps I need a diversion. If you feel that the coin find matter is of major importance I will gladly read it and see if I agree with you. Why did you not write the foreword ?

Thank you for asking me. Eric

Subj: **Re: A request from Len Augsburger**  
Date: 9/8/2007 10:40:40 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Eric:

Writing one book, revising another, and finishing a major article: the habits of a lifetime are, I see, hard to break. I'll want to buy a copy of them all!

I will definitely get in touch with you before I make the trek to St. Louis, for it would be wonderful to have you lead a tour. If the tour includes the library, however, I would advise having me searched on the way out....

I do feel that the book on the Baltimore Gold Hoard is of major importance, and that Len has done the detailed research that definitively tells the story. As for why I did not write the forward—it is true that I have won a Heath Literary Award—but it is also true that I am seven behind you!

If it is ok with you, therefore, I'll tell Len he can send you the manuscript for your consideration—with no obligation on your part, of course.

Many thanks, Eric. If there is anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to ask.

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----  
[REDACTED]

Sent: Sat, 8 Sep 2007 8:01 pm  
Subject: Re: A request from Len Augsburger

Dear Joel:

It was very pleasant to hear from you and to hope that you might come to visit our museum. You are very welcome and I hope I can be present to show you some of its features and ask you for suggestions. I am presently writing one book, revising another while finishing a major article. Perhaps I need a diversion. If you feel that the coin find matter is of major importance I will gladly read it and see if I agree with you. Why did you not write the foreword?

Thank you for asking me. Eric

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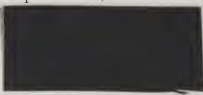
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September 29, 2007



Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Newman Money Museum  
Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum  
One Brookings Drive  
Campus Box 1214  
St. Louis, MO 63130

Dear Mr. Newman,

Enclosed is the first printed draft of *The Baltimore Gold Hoard*, the book Joel Orosz mentioned to you in earlier correspondence. I would be honored should you choose to author the forward.


While the subject of this volume is not early American numismatics, I believe you are uniquely qualified to introduce the work. As much about coins, this work is about a time and place, an urban setting in the 1930s in the shade of the Depression and the effective abolition of the gold standard. You personally lived through these events as a numismatist and concerned citizen, and as such can lend a firsthand perspective that really no one among the numismatic cognoscenti can offer. While many of us have researched archival records of the period, there is simply no substitute for having personally experienced the events of an era on a day-to-day basis.

Regardless of what you decide, please keep this book as a token of appreciation for your many contributions to American numismatics. As a Washington University graduate, and the son of a graduate, I am grateful for the creation of the Newman Museum and never fail to remind my fellow alumni to personally visit when they are in St. Louis.

Regards,



Leonard Augsburg, WU '86



Subj: A visit to St. Louis?  
Date: 12/8/2007 9:52:57 A.M. Central Standard Time  
From:  
To:  
CC:

Dear Eric:

I hope that this message finds you well, and not nearly so far behind the holiday 8-ball as I am!

You will recall that Len Augsburger and I have been working now for more than a year on the legacy of Frank Stewart and his efforts initially to save, then to commemorate, the first United States Mint. In the process of our research, we've uncovered a good deal of fresh material, particularly biographical information about Stewart, material on the first Mint itself, and pertinent artwork that will be new to 21st century numismatists--indeed, some that has never been seen by any numismatists at all (for instance, a caricature of Lamasure's "Ye Olde Mint" painting drawn by Stewart himself, and published--of all places--in a fishing club newsletter).

As you well know, such a process of discovery invariably opens new questions as well as answering old ones. To take one example, Taxay reproduces a map hand-drawn by Samuel Moore depicting no fewer than 10 small buildings crowding the yard of the first Mint in 1828. In what sequence were these buildings erected? What were their dimensions? Of what materials were they constructed? How were they renovated over the years? What were the minting functions they housed over time?

In our search for answers to these questions, St. Louis looms large. The combination of the Newman library and the good head of the man who formed it probably holds the solution to more than one riddle with which we are grappling. And, we must confess, both of us have been very keen on visiting the Newman Money Museum!

Therefore, although Emily Post would wince, we are writing to ask if we may journey to the Left Bank (of the Mississippi), visit with you, comb your library for answers, and--tossing all etiquette to the winds--receive a guided tour of the Newman Money Museum from its founder.

If you would be willing to share your expertise with us, we do have a couple of possible date ranges to propose. They are:

Sunday, March 2 and Monday March 3, 2008  
Sunday, April 20 and Monday April 21

In either case, it need not be both days, but both days are open for us. If neither cluster works for you, we can propose others.

Many thanks, Eric, for considering this request. And the happiest of holidays to you and Evelyn (who, my psychic powers tell me, is probably raising money for a charitable purpose even as I type).

Joel

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Subj: Re: A visit to St. Louis?  
 Date: 12/16/2007 2:43:41 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From:  
 To:  
 CC:

Dear Eric:

Please excuse my delay in responding fully to this note from you. I have been on the road quite a bit of late, and never seemed to have the time to sit down and write a thoughtful response.

We can definitely confirm the time of our visit after the first of the year. For your guidance, however, the better date for Len and me would be Sunday, March 2. We plan on visiting Dan Hamelberg in Champaign on Saturday, March 1, and then pressing on to St. Louis the next day. If however, this does not work out, the April 20-21 dates would still work for us.

As always, you have lots of good suggestions for further research. We have talked with Harry Forman, who has shared with us all that he knows. We think we have gotten all that we can glean from Niles and Hunts, although we have not been able to examine every pertinent issue. We have made one trip to the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and will no doubt need to make others. When we go back, we will follow your excellent suggestion to examine the insurance records. We have checked through the Philadelphia papers to the extent that they are indexed, and found some very useful data.

One thing that we are finding vexing surrounds the buildings of the first Mint. On Taxay, facing p. 80, is a diagram of the Mint's yard in 1828 drawn by Samuel Moore. This diagram depicts 10 buildings, some of which the Mint rented, others of which were purchased long after operations commenced in 1793. If you have any ideas of where we might find descriptions of when the buildings were erected, of what materials they were made, what functions they served over time, when they were damaged by fire and rebuilt, etc., that would be most helpful.

Eric, Len and I are very excited about our prospective visit to your library and museum. I've never had a conversation with you from which I haven't learned something of real value, and I'm sure that this visit will be no exception. Plus, having seen pieces of your collections over the years, we are eagerly anticipating seeing the *tout ensemble* at home in its splendid new habitat!

Warm regards,

Joel

—Original Message—

Sent: Sat, 8 Dec 2007 5:42 pm  
 Subject: Re: A visit to St. Louis?

Dear Joel:

I am delighted that you and Len are thinking of coming for a visit to our museum and library. You are very welcome at a convenient time. I am hesitant to assure you as to what if anything new you might learn here about the first US Mint. Either dates you mention are open for me but I would like to have you assure me that I will be alive and mentally mostly there. Can we confirm the exact date after the first of the year?

I shared with Don Taxay everything I knew at the time he wrote his masterpiece and do not think I learned anything new on your subject since then. If you have any specific literature sources to have me look for I will gladly search. There were magazines which might have unfound data such as Niles Magazine or Hunt's Merchants Magazine, etc. but I presume those might have been checked by someone. Does Harry Forman who lives in Philadelphia have any special knowledge? The Library Company of Philadelphia has phenomenal holdings. Are there any fire insurance building drawings of various blocks available that early? Have you checked the early Philadelphia newspapers for the period as to specific words or expressions in the available institution word search program so that you might find some commentary?

My best to you. Eric

Monday, December 17, 2007 AOL: EricNumis

Subj: Re: A visit to St. Louis?  
Date: 12/19/2007 5:22:46 A.M. Central Standard Time  
From:  
To:  
CC:

Dear Eric:

We have checked the (verbose, indeed) Mr. Scharf's history of Philadelphia, which contained interesting information, some of which was accurate, some of which has since been debunked. Your suggestion about the real estate records is a very good one, and we will follow up on it. Such records should be particularly useful in settling discrepancies between Stewart and Taxay in such matters as whether the Mint inherited a house when they rented (and later purchased) the Samuel Yorke parcel that abutted the one of the original 3 lots (#39 North Seventh), or whether the structure on Yorke's lot was subsequently erected, either by Mint, or by the Kates family, which owned the Mint property in the intervening years before Frank Stewart purchased it.

As you say, such twists and turns keep life interesting! Len and I will look forward to our visit to St. Louis early next year—until then, a very festive holiday to you and Evelyn.

Warm regards,

Joel

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Wednesday, December 19, 2007 AOL: EricNumis

Subj: Fwd: A visit to St. Louis?  
 Date: 2/10/2008 7:47:38 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From:  
 To:  
 CC:

Dear Eric:

With belated wishes for a happy 2008, Len Augsburg and I are following up on the attached correspondence from last year about visiting you in St. Louis. We are hoping that it will be possible to do so on Sunday, March 2. We are very grateful that you are willing to host us and allow us to examine the superb aggregations of books and numismatic items that you have spent decades meticulously collecting. Our topic remains the history of Frank H. Stewart and the development of the first U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

If you would like, we could bring along images of the new material we have found in archival repositories and in the hands of private collectors. Many of these images have been seen only infrequently since they were created, and some have never been seen by anyone save their creators and the curators who have cared for them since they were donated.

Len and I will be visiting Dan Hamelberg in Champaign on Saturday, March 1, and then will drive over to St. Louis that evening. We would like to meet with you (and see the collections of the Newman Library and Museum) as early on Sunday morning, March 2, as would be convenient for you.

Eric, it would surprise me if your collections have nothing new to offer our research. Even if that were the case, however, it would be well worth the trip simply to have the opportunity to visit with you, and to see the museum that you have created to educate us all about the underappreciated importance of numismatics.

Thanks again for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Warm regards,

Joel

From: EricNumis  
 To: Joelorosz  
 Sent: 12/8/2007 5:42:07 P.M. Eastern Standard Time  
 Subj: Re: A visit to St. Louis?

Dear Joel:

I am delighted that you and Len are thinking of coming for a visit to our museum and library. You are very welcome at a convenient time. I am hesitant to assure you as to what if anything new you might learn here about the first US Mint. Either dates you mention are open for me but I would like to have you assure me that I will be alive and mentally mostly there. Can we confirm the exact date after the first of the year?

I shared with Don Taxay everything I knew at the time he wrote his masterpiece and do not think I learned anything new on your subject since then. If you have any specific literature sources to have me look for I will gladly search. There were magazines which might have unfound data such as Niles Magazine or Hunt's Merchants Magazine, etc. but I presume those might have been checked by someone. Does Harry Forman who lives in Philadelphia have any special knowledge? The Library Company of Philadelphia has phenomenal holdings. Are there any fire insurance building drawings of various blocks available that early? Have you checked the early Philadelphia newspapers for the period as to specific words or expressions in the available institution word search program so that you might find some commentary?

My best to you. Eric

Monday, February 11, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Subj: Re: A visit to St. Louis?  
 Date: 2/15/2008 2:20:09 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From:  
 To:  
 CC:

Dear Eric:

Len and I are delighted that the best tour guide at the Newman Museum will be available to assist us on Sunday March 21. Your plan for the day sounds absolutely perfect. Len and I will plan on arriving at 6450 Cecil Avenue at 9:30am on the appointed day. Once the museum opens at 11, we will, no doubt, discover that the proximity of so many superb original numismatic items and so much essential research documentation will be like dying and going to heaven.

We have been able to look at the collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the New-York Historical Society, and will also consult a few other repositories, such as the National Archives and the New York Public Library. The almanacs from the 1790s will no doubt be helpful, for we have seen any of these. We have checked only those scattered volumes of *Hunt's Merchants Magazine* that I have in my library, so consulting a more complete run would be most welcome. I blush to say that neither of us have thought to look in the *Gentlemen's Magazine*. If you have a run, that would be wonderful; if not, I am sure that it can be found in certain university libraries. One early periodical we would very much like to see in the *American Museum*; or *Repository of Useful Information*, published in Philadelphia from ca. 1787 through most of the 1790s.

Eric, we very much appreciate your taking the time to share your knowledge and your museum's resources with us. We hope you will allow us to take you to lunch on Sunday—even in heaven, one must eat! Looking forward to March 2....

Warm regards,

Joel

In a message dated 2/13/2008 1:27:42 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, EricNumis writes:

Dear Joel and Len:

It was a pleasure to hear from you to confirm your visit on Sunday March 2, 2008. The Museum opens at 11 AM and closes at 6 PM. My house is very near the museum. I suggest that you come to my house about 9:30 AM so we can have a little time before we go to the museum. My address is 6450 Cecil Avenue in the City of Clayton 63105. It is two blocks south of Washington University but you have to wind around a little.

The problem I have is what library material to look for before you come as some of it is at a Washington University storage facility and real rare stuff at a bank vault, both of which are unavailable on Sunday. I can take appropriate library material out in advance such as exchange books and almanacs from the 1792 era.

I told you about our Merchants Magazine which may have material you wish as I have a good run of it at the Museum. I am sure you checked Niles already. Is there a European magazine in French or German which may have discussions as to US Mint matters. I presume you have checked Gentlemen's Magazine (London) as I have previously found material there on Nova Constellatio, New Jersey, etc. coinage in 18th century or early 19th century issues. If you have more I should look for please feel free to suggest it.

I hope you find needed items at Champaign in Hammelberg's library.

If you have any further suggestions please let me know.

Eric

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Subj: Re: A visit to St. Louis?  
Date: 2/19/2008 7:29:30 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From:  
To:  
CC:

Dear Eric:

Your Hunt's Merchants Magazine will be a wonderful resource. We'll take your advice, and see if there is an index before we make the trek to St. Louis.

It is very generous of you to arrange to have lunch sent in to us on Sunday. And wise, too—I suspect that once we get into your museum, it will take an Act of Congress to get us out!

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis@aol.com  
To: Joelorosz@aol.com  
Sent: Tue, 19 Feb 2008 12:46 pm  
Subject: Re: A visit to St. Louis?

Dear Joel:

I want to tell you that I have an almost complete run of Hunt's Merchants Magazine. I do not know if it has an index or if anyone prepared one. Perhaps you can find out before you come. If Hammelburg has a set or an index or knows about an index that might be helpful to find out in advance. Perhaps the Library Company of Philadelphia has an index of the American Museum or knows about its content as I am sure they have a complete run. I only have a copy or two. I think it will be more practical if on the Sunday when you are here I arrange to have lunch brought over to the museum.

I am looking forward to the visit. Eric

---

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Subj: **Re: On to St. Louis!**  
Date: 3/1/2008 11:13:00 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: Joelorosz  
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Len and I are currently housed at the Crowne Plaza on Carondelet. We will arrive at your home at 9:30--and we appreciate your intervention to assure excellent weather!

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis@aol.com  
To: Joelorosz@aol.com  
Sent: Fri, 29 Feb 2008 4:08 pm  
Subject: Re: On to St. Louis!

I will probably be at my home at all times. [REDACTED] Our weather is reasonably warm today and I will arrange that it stays that way. Eric


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Subj: (no subject)  
Date: 3/4/2008 2:55:36 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: EricNumis  
To: Joelorosz  
CC: 

Dear Joel and Len:

I forgot to mention to you during your delightful visit on Sunday that I have a complete set of Scientific American from 1845 (?) to about 1930 and it may have some material of early US minting. If it had images I should perhaps have them in my numismatic cartoon and image collection but I have no index to look for them and have relied on memory. I recall that there was an index in each volume but wondered if there was a longer period index somewhere. I think Bettman Archives probably could have an index which includes this data.

I presume both of you returned home safely and although, probably exhausted, missed the ice and sleet. We now have ten inches of snow and it is still falling.

I wish I could attend your ANS lecture and suggested it be recorded. My contact said they think they would have to have special expensive equipment brought in. Could you bring or arrange some simple equipment to record only the audio and forget the video part. Then we would have the information.

I found out that I have the Sellers article only as the Smithsonian reprint and wonder if you have a photocopy of the original as that might be worthwhile to examine. Perhaps the MIT library has it. I presume the Library of Congress has it as well as many others.

My very best to both of you. Thanks again for coming. Eric

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Subj: Re: (no subject)  
 Date: 3/4/2008 10:26:58 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: Joelorosz  
 To: EricNumis  
 CC: [REDACTED]

Dear Eric:

We both did return exhausted, but thankfully ahead of the dreadful weather. Both of us, however, feel that exhaustion was a small price to pay for our extraordinary day with you and Tom in your splendid museum and library. It's hard to imagine a finer combination of numismatic scholarship, connoisseurship, and education ever coming together in one place at one time. And to have the collection's creator and curator at hand to illuminate it all was a rare privilege, indeed.

We came away with a number of important information finds, and we appreciate very much not only the opportunity to seek it all, but also the efforts you and Tom are making to follow up with photocopies and to search for the 1925 variant edition of Stewart's *History of the First United States Mint*. I have only just begun to delve into the New Orleans Branch Mint Superintendent's Manual, but already I can see that it will be fascinating, and potentially significant for our research. You were very kind to allow us to borrow it.

Your additional research suggestions are much appreciated. I have access to a run of *Scientific American* at the Western Michigan, so I will follow up here. We will also definitely pursue getting a copy of the original Sellers article as published during the 1890s in *The American Machinist*, and will donate a copy to your library when we do.

Len is our resident technology expert, and if there is a way to record our Groves lecture, he will find it. We will get that recording to you as soon as we can after completing the lecture. By then, St. Louis should have emerged from the snowbanks!

Eric, if there were such a thing as a postgraduate school of numismatics, you would surely be its Dean--and Len and I are very grateful for being given the opportunity to be your graduate students for a day. Thank you so much for your time, your generosity of spirit, and the tasty lunch that kept us going strong until the museum closed. Please, too, pass along our thanks to Evelyn, whose gracious welcome to your lovely home launched a most eventful and memorable day.

We will be in touch!

warm regards,

Joel

In a message dated 3/4/2008 3:55:36 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, EricNumis writes:

Dear Joel and Len:

I forgot to mention to you during your delightful visit on Sunday that I have a complete set of *Scientific American* from 1845 (?) to about 1930 and it may have some material of early US minting. If it had images I should perhaps have them in my numismatic cartoon and image collection but I have no index to look for them and have relied on memory. I recall that there was an index in each volume but wondered if there was a longer period index somewhere. I think Bettman Archives probably could have an index which includes this data.

I presume both of you returned home safely and although, probably exhausted, missed the ice and sleet. We now have ten inches of snow and it is still falling.

I wish I could attend your ANS lecture and suggested it be recorded. My contact said they think they would have to have special expensive equipment brought in. Could you bring or arrange some simple equipment to record only the audio and forget the video part. Then we would have the information.

I found out that I have the Sellers article only as the Smithsonian reprint and wonder if you have a

Wednesday, March 05, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

photocopy of the original as that might be worthwhile to examine. Perhaps the MIT library has it. I presume the Library of Congress has it as well as many others.

My very best to both of you. Thanks again for coming. Eric

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It's Tax Time! [Get tips, forms and advice on AOL Money & Finance.](#)

Subj: Re: american state papers  
Date: 3/16/2008 6:52:33 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]

Dear Joel:

Thanks for your kind reply. Sadly, after looking, it appears that we do not have the 1925 Stewart. Eric's home address will be fine for return of the books, Eric P. Newman, 6450 Cecil Ave, St. Louis, MO 63105. We will be glad to see you again if we can be of assistance. Best of luck with the writing. Thanks also for Lens email. Sincerely, Tom

[REDACTED]

Dear Tom:

No apologies needed! Len and I are very grateful that you took the time to transcribe these documents for us, which are very important to our research, and thus much appreciated. We're grateful that you were able to do this on top of your other duties.

One question: has Eric been able to check to see if he has a copy of the elusive 1925 edition of Frank Stewart's *History of the First United States Mint* that was cited on p. 78 of the Jesse P. Watson book, *The Bureau of the Mint: Its History, Activities and Organization*? According to the citation, this heretofore unknown edition was published William J. Campbell, in Philadelphia. If Eric has it, we'd be thrilled if we could borrow it.

I am going through the two books we borrowed from Eric, and will send them back to you via registered mail just as soon as we can. What address should I use for that purpose?

Finally, I am copying Len in this message, so you will have his e-mail address for future reference.

Once more, Tom, thanks so much for your help. We hope to repeat our delightful visit of a couple weeks ago some day in the near future.

Warm regards,

Joel

In a message dated 3/15/2008 6:10:20 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, [REDACTED]

Hi Joel: sorry it has taken me so long to get these to you. Sadly, I typed them out by hand and I am not a fabulous typist. It was a pleasure to meet you. Best of luck with the book. I hope these aren't too late. I don't have Len's email so you are the one getting these. Hope to see you again, take care, Tom Serfass

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Sunday, March 16, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Sent: Thu, 29 Jan 2009 9:47 pm  
Subject: Re: Du Simitiere

Dear Joel:



I will take care of sending your book and it will not be FORGOTTEN.  
You asked what I was doing. I completed in 2008 the 5th edition of The Early Paper Money of America and The Fugio Copper Coinage of 1787. Now I working on several articles which is not the right thing to do. I am writing that no silver counterfeits of Massachusetts 1652 silver was ever created during its circulating period. Several are classified as counterfeit but I argue that it was too easy for crooks to clip pieces rather than go to the trouble of counterfeiting. I am also working with another researcher on the new discovery of the earliest engraving of an Audubon bird. I was lucky to find it. On another matter I would like your opinion as to whether I should continue to work on the details of why Washington's image was not put on US Coinage in the 1792 legislation. I have studied the voting in the Senate and the House and determined who said what. I have found a suggestion in a newspaper that instead of an eagle on the reverse there should be a goose because a goose is not belligerent and does no harm to anyone. ( A little different suggestion from the turkey) In the recent airplane accident the Canada goose seems to be harmful after all but it took over 200 years to prove that. I also want to explain that the English coins of the 1791 and 1792 Washington patterns for copper cent coinage were not able to keep in the loop, You know a lot about this.  
I have another project or so. Write me any time you have nothing better to do. Eric

In a message dated 1/28/2009 7:54:40 P.M. Central Standard Time, Joelorosz writes:



Sent: Wed, 28 Jan 2009 5:49 pm  
Subject: Du Simitiere

Dear Joel:

I was asked by the American Academy of Natural Science in Philadelphia to obtain the best book for them on Du Simitiere's numismatics. I will buy your book and send to them unless you would prefer to send it.

This gave me a reason to write you because I was wondering how your health matters are doing. Would you be nice enough to send me some good news. Eric .

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Subj: Re: Du Simitiere  
Date: 1/30/2009 9:28:52 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: Joelorosz  
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Thank you so much for sending the Academy of Natural Sciences a copy of my book—I really appreciate it.

Your ongoing projects, as always, are intriguing. The earliest engraving of an Audubon bird is very significant, indeed. Where do you plan to publish it? This should create quite a stir for everyone from ornithologists to collectors of Auduboniana!

Your thesis that no counterfeits of Massachusetts coinage were made during the circulating period makes good sense to me. The simplest explanation is usually the best one, and it makes sense that clipping and sweating would be infinitely easier for the unscrupulous than going to the great trouble and expense of counterfeiting the actual coins. Counterfeiting once collecting took hold—perhaps after Felt's 1839 work, or surely after the flowering of coin collecting in the U.S. in the mid-1850s, now that would make sense—whether crookedly, to deceive, or commissioned by collectors to fill gaps—a sort of an antebellum Gallery Mint—either way, there would be real incentive that would not have existed during the 17th century.

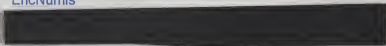
I hope that you see the 1792 Washington-(not)-on-coinage research through to fruition. I have seen dozens of statements that Washington rejected the use of his image on coinage as being too monarchical, but never once have I seen a citation as to his actual statement, which makes me wonder if he said it at all. This is a matter of some moment, for it determined the obverse treatment of U.S. coinage for more than a century, and your work would give us a solid basis for understanding why that decision was made: because of a direct statement by the President, because of a remark by the President relayed by a Congressman, or because of other factors not directly related to Washington's agency? So please do carry this through to completion—I believe that it will be an important contribution.

A quick word about the project Len Augusburger and I are working on—Frank Stewart and the first U.S. Mint. We have taken your advice, and found two insurance surveys, both created after the 1832 sale of the property to the Kates family. The biggest discovery was that the Front Building (Stewart's Administration Building) was connected via a tunnel to the Middle Building (Stewart's Coinage Building). The Mint also knocked out the partition on the second floor that separated the two structures that comprised the Front Building. Clearly, they were trying to maximize the usefulness of a very cramped space. We've also found an enormous wealth of illustrative material—all of John Ward Dunsmore's sketches for "Inspection of the First United States Coins," for example, plus several sketches for pictures that were rejected (including two watercolors of Washington's party pulling up to the outside of the Middle Building, and being greeted by David Rittenhouse). It's ironic that I've written so many articles in which the problem was a dearth of illustrative material, and now the problem is an embarrassment of riches!

Warm regards,

Joel



Subj: **Two requests**  
 Date: 8/21/2009 5:53:29 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
 From: Joelorosz  
 To: EricNumis  
 CC: 

Dear Eric:

I hope that this electronic missive finds you well and up to your elbows in satisfying numismatic research projects.

You will recall that last year, when Len Augsburg and I enjoyed a delightful visit with you in St. Louis, we were working on a book entitled *Pictures of the First United States Mint: The Numismatic Legacy of Frank H. Stewart*. We are now in the home stretch of that labor of love, and Whitman will definitely be the publisher. Our manuscript is due to them by March of next year, and we are—remarkably enough—ahead of schedule. The text is almost entirely written, and the illustrations are mostly secured. Now, we are working on fact-checking, polishing prose, and writing the front matter: preface, acknowledgments, etc.

This is where our first request enters the picture. Our third chapter, which I have attached, is our reconstruction of the evolution of the first Mint, from William Penn's purchase of the land from the Lenni Lanape Indians, through the clearing of the property, the construction of the Mint buildings, their multiple uses, their sale to the Kates Family, and their subsequent careers until purchased by Frank H. Stewart in 1907 (the story of the Mint after the Stewart purchase is found in other chapters of the book). We followed your suggestion to check property and insurance records, and consequently discovered a number of things that were never previously known, such as the connections between the Front and Middle Buildings via both a tunnel and a second-story walkway. While we are reasonably confident in our facts and conclusions, we know that this chapter would benefit from your discerning eye being run over it. Would you be willing to review it at your leisure and give us the benefit of your experience and judgment?

Then comes the second request. You will recall that back in 1988, you wrote the Foreword to my first numismatic book, *The Eagle That Is Forgotten*. Given that 21 years have elapsed, Len and I are hoping that the "statute of limitations" has run out, and that you would do us the honor of writing the Foreword for *Pictures of the First United States Mint*. There are many reasons why this would be most appropriate, but I will mention only one: you are the only remaining person, collector or dealer, whose numismatic career contained a large overlap with that of Stewart, whose life dates were 1873-1948 (Stewart was a member of the ANA from the first decade of the 20th century until his death).

The attached chapter on the Mint will give you a flavor of the book, but if you would like to see the entire manuscript before deciding whether to accept our invitation to write the Foreword, we would be most pleased to send you a hard copy of the entire thing.

Of course, Eric, we know that you have a demanding research agenda with commitments to honor, and that you are offered many such opportunities to write forewords; so many that you cannot accept them all. Therefore, if it not possible for you to accept our invitation, we would surely understand. If you could find a way to accept, however, we would be most grateful. It would add greatly to our credibility to have your name on the boards along with ours. So we thank you for considering our request, and look forward to our paths crossing again soon.

With warm regards,

Joel



## Pictures of the US Mint

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sun 8/23/09 3:51 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Joel and Len:

I am indulging in a vacation on Martha's Vineyard but the Obama family has not come to see me. I will be back in St. Louis after the end of the month.

I am honored by your request to help with your Mint book and appreciate your kind comments. I was so glad that my suggestion about title and insurance records bore some fruit. The first thing I considered was the title. I wonder if the word IMAGES is better for the title than PICTURES.

You did not have to use the excuse of my being alive in Stewart's lifetime as I would prefer to celebrate the fact that the doctors rescued Joel's life.

Please send me a hard copy of the book or manuscript to St. Louis in whatever form it is in at present so I can think about writing a foreword. When I tried to print out what you sent me the end notes (which came out first) were so long I ran out of paper so have not had the chance to read the text.

I crawled through a long military tunnel in Viet Nam many years ago and it was so narrow I almost got stuck. I hope the Mint tunnel was larger. The Gaza tunnels for sneaking in arms were apparently cement lined but got rough treatment recently nevertheless. Perhaps you ought to get permission to look for coins in the Mint tunnel position..

Keep researching and writing and I will try to do the same. My best. Eric

Eric -

Draft enclosed. A few selected plates are found in the rear.

Regards,

Len Augsburger

8/23/2009

Subj: **Re: Pictures of the US Mint**  
 Date: 8/24/2009 1:09:35 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
 From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 CC: [REDACTED]

Dear Eric:

It is somewhat surprising that President Obama has not come to see you on the Vineyard, since the poor fellow certainly needs to collect every coin that he possibly can. It is perhaps less surprising that our endnotes ran your printer out of paper. Len and I found that so much of what has been written about the first Mint consists of repetition of initial ungrounded speculation, that we have been zealous in grounding our conclusions firmly in verifiable facts. Perhaps too zealous, for the number of endnotes has grown quite large.

We are pleased indeed that you will consider accepting our offer to write the Foreword to our book. Len will send to you, at your home in St. Louis, a hard copy of the book in manuscript, along with a number of color photographs that will allow you to see the full extent of the findings. Besides new information on the first Mint, we also have written a biography of Frank Stewart, small biographies of Stewart's two painters, Edwin Lamasure and John Ward Dunsmore, and a tracing of the property down to the present day, including the fate of Stewart's collection of Mint artifacts, that of the Frank H. Stewart Electric Company, as well as the "Old Mint Building" that Stewart erected on the site after he razed the last of the first Mint buildings.

One of the great frustrations of this project has been peering at the massive hulk of the Green Federal Building in Philadelphia, which now completely covers the site of the first Mint (and Stewart's later Old Mint Building). The last chance for archeology to add anything to our understanding of the old Mint was lost after the Green monolith rose on the site in the late 1960s. A cursory set of excavations was indeed done then, which we detail in the book, but the findings were meager. So much of what we want to know about the first Mint, including its heretofore unknown tunnel, is now under tons of masonry and steel.

Now, however, we are intrigued by an extra-numismatic mention in your letter. What took you to Vietnam to sample those Viet Cong tunnels?

[REDACTED]

Again, Eric, we are grateful that you will consider, after having looked at the manuscript, writing the Foreword for the book. Safe travels, and we will look forward to hearing from you after you have returned home to Cecil Avenue.

Warm regards,

Joel

In a message dated 08/23/09 16:51:16 Eastern Daylight Time, EricNumis writes:

Dear Joel and Len:

I am indulging in a vacation on Martha's Vineyard but the Obama family has not come to see me. I will be back in St. Louis after the end of the month.

I am honored by your request to help with your Mint book and appreciate your kind comments. I was so glad that my suggestion about title and insurance records bore some fruit.

The first thing I considered was the title. I wonder if the word IMAGES is better for the title than PICTURES.

You did not have to use the excuse of my being alive in Stewart's lifetime as I would prefer to celebrate the fact that the doctors rescued Joel's life.

Please send me a hard copy of the book or manuscript to St Louis in whatever form it is in at present so I can think about writing a foreword. When I tried to print out what you sent me the end notes (which came out first) were so long I ran out of paper so have not had the chance to read the text.

I crawled through a long military tunnel in Viet Nam many years ago and it was so narrow I almost got stuck. I hope the Mint tunnel was larger. The Gaza tunnels for sneaking in arms were apparently cement lined but got rough treatment recently nevertheless. Perhaps you ought to get permission to look for coins in the Mint tunnel position..

Keep researching and writing and I will try to do the same.

My best.

Eric

---

Subj: **Re: Gratz family**  
 Date: 9/18/2009 4:23:31 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
 From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [REDACTED]

Dear Len:

I am glad you found that the Rebecca Gratz matter was connected to your text. Rebecca Gratz was one of the beauties of the US devoting her life to charity and she remained unmarried. The woman in Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* was Rowena who was modeled after Rebecca Gratz because of Washington Irving' describing his friendship with her to Scott on a visit to Scotland. Not only did the fictional Rowena remain unmarried but Washington Irving himself was so in love with Matilda Hoffman (his deceased New York finance and the close friend of Rebecca Gratz) that he too never married. I now feel that the word VIEWS should be used in the title to your book instead of my first suggestion of IMAGES. VIEWS is accurate and vague enough to encourage readership. Eric

In a message dated 9/16/2009 8:58:36 P.M. Central Daylight Time, leonard\_augsburger@hotmail.com writes:

Eric-

I found a page on the Internet, which seems to be well sourced, that sorts out the Gratz family in Philadelphia:

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?letter=G&artid=417>

As is noted here, Rebecca Gratz who you mentioned happens to be a sister of the brothers Simon and Hyman Gratz who owned the Declaration House in Philadelphia. A neat coincidence - thanks for brining this to our attention.

Regards,  
 Len.

From: [REDACTED]  
 Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2009 17:48:00 -0400  
 Subject: Fwd: (no subject)  
 To: [REDACTED]

From: EricNumis  
 To: Joelorosz [REDACTED]  
 CC: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 9/13/2009 4:45:36 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
 Subj: (no subject)

Dear friends:

I have begun to read the draft of your book and want to talk to you about a crazy related situation which is too long to write about. Will one of you telephone me so I can tell it to you. My number is 314 727 0850. Thanks.  
 Eric

Subj: **Your First US Mint Opus**  
Date: 10/24/2009 11:30:02 A.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [EricNumis](#)  
To: [Joelorosz](#)  
CC: [REDACTED]

Dear Joel and Len: In looking for an item in my miscellaneous correspondence files under the letter C I located by serendipity some correspondence with John J. Carey, Jr. who in a letter to me wrote in 1962 that "The original sources of the Stewart book was furnished by me". I had no recollection of my correspondence with Carey which included something in COIN WORLD about Dudley and the 100 mill coin of 1783, etc. I have about three or four letters involving Carey who seems to have been a Mint Official. I will send copies to you if you wish and will look further in my correspondence files if you suggest any other names which may be relevant.

You have a most phenomenal accomplishment in preparing your book. I have to reread more of it to gather its impact. I previously suggested a change in title to VIEWS instead of PICTURES. Now I feel that neither appeals to me as the text is too important. Could you add a subtitle as part of or at the end of the title, such as VIEWS, ARTISTRY & HISTORY (rearranging order may be desirable).

Do you still want me to write a foreword? I would appreciate any content suggestions from you if you do. You can be as immodest as you can in any suggestions you make to me.

My best to both of you. Stay in good health.

Eric

Subj: Re: Your First US Mint Opus  
 Date: 10/25/2009 9:28:12 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
 From: Joelorosz  
 To: EricNumis  
 CC: [REDACTED]  
 Dear Eric:

Len and I thank you very much for your kind words about our manuscript, and we are absolutely delighted that you will do us the honor of writing the Foreword as we transform that manuscript into a book! We are hoping that you will fill in one gap we have left, namely why the young American republic's complex and confused monetary system made the creation of a Mint in 1792 an imperative necessity. We will draw up a short outline of key points and send it to you soon for your comments and suggestions.

We agree with you that a change of title is in order. We are considering incorporating your suggestions into a title such as: "Images of the First United States Mint: Views, Artistry and History of the Birthplace of American Coinage" or "The First United States Mint: Frank H. Stewart's History, Artistry and Mythology of the Cradle of American Coinage."

Len and I are extremely excited about the correspondence you exchanged in 1962 with John J. Carey, and would very much appreciate your sending us copies of the pertinent letters. Stewart corresponded widely with numismatists, Mint officials and historians while doing research for "History of the First United States Mint," and we have examined most of this correspondence, but we have not run across anything from Mr. Carey, so your correspondence with him could be of tremendous significance.

We are also happy to accept your kind offer of examining your correspondence files for other possibly relevant exchanges. The six most fruitful possibilities are Ted Hammer, former ANA Librarian, with whom Stewart corresponded; Damon Douglas and Raymond H. Williamson, for their general interest in early American numismatics; Warren Lapp and Don Taxay, who of course wrote specifically about the history of the First U.S. Mint; and John C. Curry, Jr. of Woodbury, New Jersey, to whom Stewart gave the doorsill of the Mint's Front Building. Thanks very much for taking the time to give these a check.

Eric, it is always a pleasure to work with you. If there were such a thing as a Post Graduate School of Numismatic Research, you would undoubtedly be its Dean!

With thanks and warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Cc: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2009 12:30 pm  
 Subject: Your First US Mint Opus

Dear Joel and Len: In looking for an item in my miscellaneous correspondence files under the letter C I located by serendipity some correspondence with John J. Carey, Jr. who in a letter to me wrote in 1962 that "The original sources of the Stewart book was furnished by me". I had no recollection of my correspondence with Carey which included something in COIN WORLD about Dudley and the 100 mill coin of 1783, etc. I have about three or four letters involving Carey who seems to have been a Mint Official. I will send copies to you if you wish and will look further in my correspondence files if you suggest any other names which may be relevant.

You have a most phenomenal accomplishment in preparing your book. I have to reread more of it to gather its impact. I previously suggested a change in title to VIEWS instead of PICTURES. Now I feel that neither appeals

to me as the text is too important. Could you add a subtitle as part of or at the end of the title, such as VIEWS, ARTISTRY & HISTORY (rearranging order may be desirable).

Do you still want me to write a foreword? I would appreciate any content suggestions from you if you do. You can be as immodest as you can in any suggestions you make to me.

My best to both of you. Stay in good health.

Eric

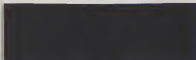
Subj: **Snail Mail Addresses wanted**  
Date: 10/28/2009 2:50:39 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [EricNumis](#)  
To: [Joelorosz](#)

Dear Joel:

I do not have your mailing address ( I probably have it somewhere) to send you the Casey correspondence relative to Stewart . Do you want me to send a copy to Len? I am also digging in my Ray Williamson file now to see if he was involved with the Stewart matter. My  
best Eric

Subj: **Re: Snail Mail Addresses wanted**  
Date: 10/28/2009 4:18:50 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [Joelorosz](#)  
To: [EricNumis](#)  
Dear Eric:

My address is:



You can simply send the copies to me, and I will send copies to Len.

Many thanks for checking on your Ray Williamson file. I know that he was interested in the First Mint, and there may well be something data contained within that will be very useful.

Warm regards,

Joel

In a message dated 10/28/09 15:50:39 Eastern Daylight Time, EricNumis writes:

Dear Joel:

I do not have your mailing address ( I probably have it somewhere) to send you the Casey correspondence relative to Stewart . Do you want me to send a copy to Len? I am also digging in my Ray Williamson file now to see if he was involved with the Stewart matter.

best

Eric

My



Copy

10/13/09

Dear Joel:

The Carey correspondence with me may be helpful to you on the Stewart matter.

The Williamson letter is typical of his amazing research and his devotion to improving the numismatic discipline.

I will keep looking for more oddments.

Stay well

Eric

Subj: **Rough Outline for your Foreword**  
Date: 11/5/2009 3:05:53 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [Joelorosz](#)  
To: [EricNumis](#)  
CC: [REDACTED]  
Dear Eric: [REDACTED]

Please pardon our delay in responding to your request for a rough outline of ideas for inclusion in the Foreword you are writing for our book on Frank H. Stewart and the first U.S. Mint. Len and I are hoping that you would be willing to briefly sketch the historical setting in which our story is placed, namely the reasons why it was so important to establish the first Mint in 1792. This story has been told in detail elsewhere, especially in your body of scholarship, and also by Don Taxay, so we would not expect a detailed recounting. We are hoping you would cover the essential points in the four broad areas listed below:

1. The context: the disordered monetary "system" of Britain's American provinces
2. The disruption: the Revolutionary-era inflation, and its hardships
3. The response: Robert Morris' failed attempts to launch a mint under the Confederation
4. The belated federal solution: Hamilton, Jefferson, and Washington make a Mint

Again, we are thinking that you would cover only the broad outlines of this evolution, referring interested readers to other, detailed publications if necessary. We would also welcome your ideas on amendments to this plan.

Thanks once more for agreeing to write the Foreword—your participation means a great deal to both of us.

warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Carey letters**  
Date: 11/6/2009 9:54:29 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [Joelorosz](#)  
To: [EricNumis](#)  
CC:  
Dear Eric: [REDACTED]

Just a note to thank you for sending the copies of the Carey letters, and to let you know that they have safely arrived. Frankly, Len and I are a bit skeptical of Carey's claim to have provided the research material for Stewart's *History of the First United States Mint*, for Stewart was researching and writing about the Mint for more than a decade before 1922, when Carey claims to have delivered the research material to Stewart. Nonetheless, we are grateful to you for bringing this material to our attention, for it is important to note the claim, and share our reasons for refuting it.

The letter from Raymond Williamson you included was a fascinating read. It occurs to us that a pretty good history of Anglo-American numismatics over the past 70 years could be written solely on the basis of annotating the rich trove of correspondence found in your files. Perhaps that should be our next project!

warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **RE: serendipity**  
Date: 11/19/2009 9:35:20 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
All-

Further research reveals that Kaptik was associated with the Philadelphia Coin Club, which is known to have had at least one other first Mint timber item in their possession. So it all fits.

Kaptik's obituary is in the Numismatist, vol. 91, May 1978, p.953.

Regards,  
Len.

From: leonard\_augsburger@hotmail.com  
To: ericn...@aol.com  
Subject:

Subj: RE: serendipity  
Date: 11/19/2009 9:35:20 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
All- [REDACTED]

Further research reveals that Kaptik was associated with the Philadelphia Coin Club, which is known to have had at least one other first Mint timber item in their possession. So it all fits.

Kaptik's obituary is in the Numismatist, vol. 91, May 1978, p.953.

Regards,  
Len.

[REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: serendipity  
Date: Thu, 19 Nov 2009 19:53:46 -0600

Eric-

What a great story!

We are enumerating all known examples of first Mint timber in the book, and will certainly add this one.

The name Alexander Kaptik is unknown to me, I've not seen it anywhere in the Stewart papers or any other literature. The Social Security death index identifies one Alexander Kaptik of Philadelphia, 1918-1978, who may be the person in question.

Regards,  
Len.

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Thu, 19 Nov 2009 18:44:46 -0500  
Subject: serendipity  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]

Surprisingly I was looking for a piece of macerated money in a box with that kind of junk in it and in the box was a few other oddities. One of those was a piece of sawed wood with a typewritten card next to it with the following text:

"Cross section of the Original Beam from the First United States Mint at 7th and Filbert Streets,  
Philadelphia Gift of Alexander Kaptik"

I do not recollect who he was or why or where I received it but I remember that I have had the item for many decades.

Is that matter mentioned in your text or footnotes? Shall I have the wood checked to see what variety it is? Shall I try to count the rings as my piece is from the center to the bark but the saw cut makes it very difficult to count many of the rings. Perhaps I should ask WOODY ALLEN for his comments. I am bearing to have located that item at this time.

=

Happy Thanksgiving to both of you.

Eric

Subj: **Re: serendipity**  
Date: 11/20/2009 10:33:13 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Dear Eric:

I have little of substance to add to the good detective work that Len has done. We appreciate very much your addition of another piece to our catalogue of Stewartiana, along with the addition of Mr. Kaptik to our list of players in this fascinating drama.

It would be very interesting to note what kind of wood your piece is--if you can do so without going to a lot of trouble.

It would seem that even the junk boxes of the Newman collection hold objects of real significance!

Warm regards,

Joel

[REDACTED]

Sent: Thu, Nov 19, 2009 10:35 pm  
Subject: RE: serendipity

All-

Further research reveals that Kaptik was associated with the Philadelphia Coin Club, which is known to have had at least one other first Mint timber item in their possession. So it all fits.

Kaptik's obituary is in the Numismatist, vol. 91, May 1978, p.953.

Regards,  
Len.

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: serendipity  
Date: Thu, 19 Nov 2009 19:53:46 -0600

Eric-

What a great story!

We are enumerating all known examples of first Mint timber in the book, and will certainly add this one.

The name Alexander Kaptik is unknown to me, I've not seen it anywhere in the Stewart papers or any other literature. The Social Security death index identifies one Alexander Kaptik of Philadelphia, 1918-1978, who may be the person in question.

Regards,  
Len.

---

From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
Date: Thu, 19 Nov 2009 18:44:46 -0500  
Subject: serendipity  
To: [Joelorosz@aol.com](mailto:Joelorosz@aol.com)  
CC: [Leonard\\_Augsburger@hotmail.com](mailto:Leonard_Augsburger@hotmail.com)

Surprisingly I was looking for a piece of macerated money in a box with that kind of junk in it and in the box was a few other oddities. One of those was a piece of sawed wood with a typewritten card next to it with the following text:

"Cross section of the Original Beam from the First United States Mint at 7th and Filbert Streets,  
Philadelphia                      Gift of Alexander Kaptik"

I do not recollect who he was or why or where I received it but I remember that I have had the item for many decades.

Is that matter mentioned in your text or footnotes? Shall I have the wood checked to see what variety it is? Shall I try to count the rings as my piece is from the center to the bark but the saw cut makes it very difficult to count many of the rings. Perhaps I should ask WOODY ALLEN for his comments. I am beaming to have located that item at this time.

=

Happy Thanksgiving to both of you.

Eric

Subj: **Happy Holidays!**  
Date: 12/23/2009 9:34:25 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [Joelorosz](#)  
To: [EricNumis](#)  
CC: [REDACTED]  
Dear Eric: [REDACTED]

As 2010 draws to a close, we wish you the happiest of holidays. May you be surrounded by the light of family, friends and endless affection. As for me, I am particularly thankful for the gifts of 2009, especially a return to health, and the fraternity of good numismatic friends.

Len and I are making good progress on the Stewart/First Mint book. In fact, we are putting the finishing touches on it before sending it off to a limited number of readers for their review and suggested revisions, in advance of our March 2010 deadline for delivering the manuscript to Whitman.

We are grateful, indeed, that you have agreed to write the foreword for our book. Our suggestion of focusing its content on the "pre-history" of the Mint, laying out the reasons why Mint was so urgently needed in 1792, is, we hope, congenial for you. If you would like to take a different tack, we are certainly open to your ideas and suggestions.

Again, Eric, we wish you the joys of the season, and we count your guidance and counsel among our blessings!

Warm regards,

Joel



Subj: **Re: Happy Holidays!**  
 Date: 12/26/2009 11:48:28 A.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [Joelorosz](#)  
 To: [EricNumis](#)  
 CC:  
 Dear Eric:

Thanks for your information about the crosscut slice of the first Mint's wooden beam that you have in your collection. The approximate age of the tree from which the beam was taken being 100 years, it places the tree back to just about the time that William Penn was beginning his Proprietorship of Pennsylvania. Somehow, that seems most fitting! Although we do not know the precise type of wood, it is probably a safe guess that it is some type of hardwood. In any case, it is an important addition to our list of Stewartiana, the relics that he saved from the first Mint, or created to commemorate it.

Len and I are most grateful that you are rearranging the priority of your projects in order to accommodate writing the Foreword for our book. We eagerly anticipate receiving it. Please do feel free to make any suggestions about what should be included—or excluded—from the general outline that we have shared with you.

Eric, we send the joys of the season to you and Evelyn, and here is to our paths crossing often in 2010. If there is anything that Len or I can do to assist you in your multifarious numismatic projects, please send up a flare!

Warm regards,

Joel

In a message dated 12/25/09 18:10:16 Eastern Standard Time, ericnumis writes:

Dear Joel:

This a late Xmas cheer to you and the medical profession that made your existence possible. A cousin of my daughter's family has a similar problem and I can use your example of success to cheer them.

As to my crosscut slice of a Mint wood beam I observe that three sides which were trimmed before it was put in place are coated with a grayish color from the smoke atmosphere and the fourth side is the bark. The botanical garden here has insufficient expertise to determine the variety of wood and I estimate that the age of the tree was close to 100 in trying to count the rings as the center and the bark are in the crosscut section but the cut is not very smooth.

I thank you for the suggestions as to the Foreword and will try to defer other less important work to do yours. Either of you should feel free to make suggestions to me at any time. Happy 2010  
Eric

In a message dated 12/23/2009 9:34:25 P.M. Central Standard Time, Joelorosz writes:

Dear Eric:

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Again, Eric, we wish you the joys of the season, and we count your guidance and counsel among our blessings!

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: RE: Happy Holidays!  
 Date: 12/26/2009 1:24:58 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [REDACTED]  
 To:  
 Eric-

Attached are series of photographs of a block of first Mint timber saved by Stewart and currently on loan to the US Mint. I wonder if you might be able to identify your piece as originating from this block. It is, like yours, charred on three sides. Stewart called it oak, taken from the roof of the Coinage (Middle) building.

Regards,  
 Len.

--Forwarded Message Attachment--

From: [REDACTED]  
 Date: Fri, 25 Dec 2009 18:05:07 -0500  
 Subject: Re: Happy Holidays!  
 To: [REDACTED]

Dear Joel:

This a late Xmas cheer to you and the medical profession that made your existence possible. A cousin of my daughter's family has a similar problem and I can use your example of success to cheer them .

As to my crosscut slice of a Mint wood beam I observe that three sides which were trimmed before it was put in place are coated with a grayish color from the smoke atmosphere and the fourth side is the bark. The botanical garden here has insufficient expertise to determine the variety of wood and I estimate that the age of the tree was close to 100 in trying to count the rings as the center and the bark are in the crosscut section but the cut is not very smooth.

I thank you for the suggestions as to the Foreword and will try to defer other less important work to do yours. Either of you should feel free to make suggestions to me at any time. Happy 2010 Eric

In a message dated 12/23/2009 9:34:25 P.M. Central Standard Time, Joelorosz writes:

Dear Eric:

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Again, Eric, we wish you the joys of the season, and we count your guidance and counsel among our blessings!

Warm regards,

Joel

12/28/09

Concerning the slice of ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> beam  
in the first US Mint building I telephoned  
Back at the Acad of Nat Science to ask about  
determining the variety and age of the beam.

He said that Wenterham has a lab for  
determining the variety of wood by microscopical  
exam. He will contact them and let me  
know the right person to talk to. He said they  
would be most interested and would do it ~~for~~  
at no cost he thinks. They have quantities of  
samples for comparison.  
He will call them after the first of the year

EPD

Subj: RE: Timber  
Date: 12/30/2009 3:15:51 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Eric-

See if this image works. Attached are four views of the same object.

If you can't view these I can send you a paper copy. There is also a copy online at:

<http://forums.collectors.com/messageview.cfm?catid=26&threadid=755196>

This particular block of timber is on loan to the US Mint from Independence Hall. It was originally donated to Independence Hall by Frank Stewart, who identified it as oak, from the rafters of the Coinage (Middle) building.

I would very much be interested in the Winterthur analysis. The timber was thought to be a hundred years old when used in 1792, putting its age today at about 300 years. Presumably Winterthur has similar samples from early Philadelphia construction to compare against.

Regards,  
Len.

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, 30 Dec 2009 14:35:05 -0500  
Subject: Timber  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]

Dear friends:

As to my slice of the US Mint beam you indicated that the US Mint has on loan some examples of the wood. Do you think they have any information about the variety of the wood or any data? Maybe it could be in the loan file if the Mint people can find it. Who is the lender?

I contacted a friend in Philadelphia and he told me that Winterthur has a specialized department with large quantities of microscopic samples relating to the study of wood. He is going to ask promptly for the name of the person to contact after the first of the year. He indicates that Winterthur probably would be delighted to take a microscopic sample of my piece particularly because its date of use and its historical importance. He felt there would be no expense. What do you think about this situation?

I hope we are barking up the right tree. Eric

I am still trying to receive your attached pictures but may have to ask for them to be sent in a different form.

=

Subj: **Re: Timber**  
 Date: 12/30/2009 7:37:02 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [Joelorosz](#)  
 To: [EricNumis](#) [REDACTED]  
 Dear Eric:

I will piggyback on Len's response to agree that the analysis at Wintertur would be very exciting. All of our data on wood composition are essentially hearsay from Stewart--it would be great to have a scientific validation (or refutation) of Stewart's conclusions.

Very exciting stuff!

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: Leonard Augsburg [REDACTED]  
 To: Eric Newman [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Wed, Dec 30, 2009 3:53 pm  
 Subject: RE: Timber

Eric-

See if this image works. Attached are four views of the same object.

If you can't view these I can send you a paper copy. There is also a copy online at:

<http://forums.collectors.com/messageview.cfm?catid=26&threadid=755196>

This particular block of timber is on loan to the US Mint from Independence Hall. It was originally donated to Independence Hall by Frank Stewart, who identified it as oak, from the rafters of the Coinage (Middle) building.

I would very much be interested in the Winterthur analysis. The timber was thought to be a hundred years old when used in 1792, putting its age today at about 300 years. Presumably Winterthur has similar samples from early Philadelphia construction to compare against.

Regards,  
 Len.

From: [REDACTED]  
 Date: Wed, 30 Dec 2009 14:35:05 -0500  
 Subject: Timber  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 CC: [REDACTED]

Dear friends:

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 I hope we are barking up the right tree. Eric

I am still trying to receive your attached pictures but may have to ask for them to be sent in a different form.  
 =

Subj: Re: First US Mint comments  
Date: 1/9/2010 10:04:20 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: Joelorosz  
To: [REDACTED] EricNumis

Dear Eric:

You are quite right that we should specify the beneficiaries of the ground rent on the Mint property.

I have only one thing to add to Len's note (besides shaking my head in amazement at the amounts realized by the Col. Green material), and that is to say that we are delighted that you are working on the Foreword. We are in the process of sending the draft out to a few other readers right now, so your timing couldn't be more appropriate.

I hope 2010 is off to a roaring start for you.

Warm regards,

Joel

In a message dated 01/09/10 22:25:32 Eastern Standard Time [REDACTED] writes:

Eric-

Thanks for looking into the Winterthur possibility.

Regarding the ground rent, it was ultimately extinguished c. 1890. We found this note in the Stewart papers on our last visit --

"John L. Kates paid off the ground rent which was in existence for nearly one hundred years. It was last owned by a church whose members were colored. They obtained a good price for the ground rent when sold."

I attended George Kolbe's sale of the Stack library this afternoon. You will be interested to know that the Col. Green inventory records (lot 79) hammered at \$70K, and that the photographic record (lot 80) hammered at the same price. The rumor on the floor was that both lots went to a "buyer from Europe." I am sure you could have had either lot in the 1930s for a relative pittance!

Regards,  
Len.

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, 8 Jan 2010 18:37:55 -0500  
Subject: First US Mint comments  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]

Dear Joel and Len:

I just received word that Winterthur has discontinued its wood sampling department and has no one on its staff able to undertake such work. I tried to count the number of rings on my piece and it seems to be about 80. The bark side of the joist as well as the three split sides are covered with a black coating which was apparently from exposure to the atmosphere at the

Mint.

In reading your book I have a goodwill suggestion to add a fact that is clearly set out in Stewart's book but apparently the original records have not been located. In 1795 and thereafter ground rent was paid on real estate occupied by the US Mint to The Institute for the Schooling of Blacks as well as School for the Education of negroes, etc under care of the people called Quakers. While you mention there were ground rents paid I think it will help pleased the public to show that blacks without cost were then be educated by the Quakers on the Mint's grounds. It is your call.

I am working on the Foreword a little.

Eric

=



Subj: **Re: Foreword for your book**  
 Date: 1/25/2010 4:55:03 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 CC: [REDACTED]  
 Dear Eric:

Len and I are delighted that you are closing in on completion of the Foreword to our book—we are very much looking forward to reading it. We also appreciate your kindness in giving us permission to wield a red pencil vigorously, although we can hardly imagine any circumstance in which that would be necessary with your writing. In any case, we will give it a good examination when it arrives.

A quick update on our progress—we have shared the manuscript with eight readers of the caliber of Q. David Bowers, R.W. Julian, and Roger Burdette. Critiques have begun to return, with a few corrections and suggestions for improvements that we are tasking to heart. The manuscript will emerge stronger for their efforts. We have promised to place the finished manuscript in the hands of Dennis Tucker at Whitman by the latter part of March, so we are right on our timetable.

We do have one other request of you—might it possible to receive a photograph of your section of the first Mint timber? We have photographed the other known specimens for an appendix to the book, and very much wish to include yours, as well. Is that something that Tom Serfass could do for you? If not, we would be happy to reimburse you for the cost of having it commercially done. If taken on a digital camera, the photo needs to have a minimal resolution of 600 dots per inch in order to be reproduced in the book.

We are pleased that you have emerged with no ill effects from the dreadful weather St. Louis has been enduring of late. Again we are very grateful to you for writing the Foreword, and eager to sit down and read it!

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Mon, Jan 25, 2010 3:24 pm  
 Subject: Foreword for your book

Dear Joel:

Just a note to tell you that I have almost finished the Foreword for your book in handwritten form. I will then have it typewritten promptly.

I want you and Len to vigorously edit it to your satisfaction. Throw out any word or sentence or thought. Tell me to change or add anything. Lengthen it or shorten it or rearrange any part. I enjoyed preparing it.  
 Eric

Subj: **Re: Foreword**  
Date: 2/10/2010 1:29:55 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Dear Eric:

Len shared a copy of your wonderful Foreword with me. You did exactly what we asked you to do, setting the stage for the creation of the Mint. In fact, it is the best short course on Colonial American numismatics we have ever seen!

Len and I made some few light edits, and we are ready to send it to you for your approval of the piece as it stands. I could either send it to you as a Word document attached to an e-mail, or fax it to you— whichever would be easier for you. If you prefer the fax, if you would share your fax number with me, I will get right to it.

Again, Eric, we thank you for delivering such a strong document to us. If there were such a thing as a Postgraduate School of Numismatics, you would surely be its Dean!

Warm regards,

Joel

In a message dated 02/10/10 12:36:05 Eastern Standard Time, EricNumis writes:

Dear Joel:

On last Monday I sent a draft of my Foreword to Leonard by FAX but do not know if you received it also. Do you have a different FAX or did he send a copy to you. Eric

Subj: **Re: Foreword**  
 Date: 2/11/2010 9:18:49 A.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [REDACTED]  
 To:

Dear Joel:

Thank you for the kind words about my Foreword to your book. Please Fax your suggested improvements to [REDACTED]. I am going to clarify my comment as to Virginia 1773 coinage. May I add the word impressive to the word "outstanding" in the last sentence or should I shovel in more praise. I do not want to turn the reader off by too much goo but want to praise it in a dignified deserved scholarly manner.

.Eric

In a message dated 2/10/2010 1:29:55 P.M. Central Standard Time [REDACTED]

Dear Eric:

Len shared a copy of your wonderful Foreword with me. You did exactly what we asked you to do, setting the stage for the creation of the Mint. In fact, it is the best short course on Colonial American numismatics we have ever seen!

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Dear Eric:

To:

From:

Date:

Subj:

Re: Foreword

2/10/2010 1:29:55 P.M. Central Standard Time

Subj: Re: Foreword  
Date: 2/12/2010 12:02:59 A.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]  
Dear Eric:

I am in the wilds of Bonita Beach, Florida, without access to a fax machine, until sunday night. I have asked Len to fax you the latest version, and i am sure he will do so soon.

We would be honored if you added the word "outstanding" in the last sentence--and please feel free to make any adjustments you would like to the entire document--we are proud to have it as our Foreword!

Warm regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]  
Sent: Thu, Feb 11, 2010 10:18 am  
Subject: Re: Foreword

Dear Joel:

Thank you for the kind words about my Foreword to your book. Please Fax your suggested improvements to [REDACTED]. I am going to clarify my comment as to Virginia 1773 coinage. May I add the word impressive to the word "outstanding" in the last sentence or should I shovel in more praise. I do not want to turn the reader off by too much goo but want to praise it in a dignified deserved scholarly manner.  
.Eric

In a message dated 2/10/2010 1:29:55 P.M. Central Standard Time, [REDACTED]

Dear Eric:

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Dear Joel:

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Eric

Noon 2/15/10

Changes made in this 2/15/10 draft are noted on the 2/14/10 revision draft so you can see what they are.

I thank you all (incl Ms. Kurtz) for improving my draft.

You may still wish to make further suggested modifications as Valentine Day has passed.



P.S. Please note double space before and after

G. WASHINGTON PRESIDENT I  
in second paragraph beginning on page 4  
line 5.  
Make sure typesetter follows this.

Subj: **Foreward received**  
Date: 2/22/2010 8:50:32 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Eric-

We received your edits of Feb. 21st by fax.

These have been incorporated and the latest electronic version is attached. Many thanks for writing this.

I received the latest issue of the Asylum today - I am glad that you and David Fanning finally untangled the coin chart which you showed us when we visited. It is always nice to solve a mystery!

Regards,  
Len.  
=

Subj: **Slight change in Foreword**  
Date: 2/28/2010 1:33:26 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From:  
To:  
CC:

I have a slight technical change which may be desirable for the Foreword. In paragraph 8 there are included the words G. WASHINGTON PRESIDENT I. This may be mixed pickles as to punctuation and is clumsy to read because of the final letter I. The legend on the coin is

G. WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT. I. with one period and three stops. .

I think it would be helpful to change it to be

( G. WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT. I. )

Other capitalized legends in the Foreword do not have the same problem and should remain unchanged.

If the printed capital letter I were not the same as the printed Roman numeral one potential readability would not be a problem. If you agree to my change please do it Eric

Subj: **Re: Something to add to your book?**  
 Date: 3/6/2010 11:39:22 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 CC: [REDACTED]  
 Dear Eric:

Len and I have put our heads together, and while we cannot say for sure that your observation is new, we can certainly affirm that it is new to us. It's fascinating that no one seems to have made such an observation before. It appears that we have all been so focused upon stars that we have forgotten to count the links of the chain. It does seem likely that die cutting was either done or too far along by the time Kentucky was admitted.

The only other star mistake in early American coinage of which we are aware is the 1828 12-star half cent. It is possible that there are others.

This goes to show that even well-studied series still have some secrets! While this is fascinating, however, it is not within the scope of our book. It sounds as if it should be a coda to your Fugio book—for the chain motif, as you note, clearly can be traced back the Fugios.

Many thanks, Eric, for sharing this fascinating information with us.

Warm regards,

Joel

[REDACTED]  
 Cc: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Sat, Mar 6, 2010 1:51 pm  
 Subject: Something to add to your book?

Dear Joel and Len:

I have no idea as to whether this observation is new or not, I thought it should be submitted to you because you would know if it has been pointed out before. It might be put in your book regardless unless it is already there.

The first one cent coinage struck at the First United States Mint were dated 1793. Part of the design of the first one cent pieces was a chain of 14 interlocked flat sided links. The design idea (using round links in a chain) obviously came from the chain design on the February 17, 1776 Continental Congress paper currency and the Fugio copper coinage. On June 1, 1792 Kentucky was admitted as the 15th state. This seems to show that the designing of the 14 link cent of 1793 was prepared prior to June 1, 1792 or by designers who thereafter were unaware of the Kentucky admission or too far along in die cutting because the number of links would have been 15 instead of 14. So far as I know no other link or star mistakes were made in the early years of US Mint coinage of other denominations. What do you think or know about this matter?

I have reported this to Kenneth Bressett as his catalog does not mention the 14 link 1793 cent matter apparently because it only records the number of stars where there are varieties of position or number of stars on a US coin. It is up to him whether to accept my suggestion for the next revision.



Subj: **Re: Confession**  
Date: 3/8/2010 10:09:50 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]

Dear Eric:

Count you out? Hardly--we continue to count on you!

Should you no longer want that cent with the weak 15th link, I know of a very good potential home for it....

Seriously, Eric, thanks for forwarding the correction.

Warm regards,

Joel

In a message dated 03/08/10 18:41:58 Eastern Standard Time, EricNumis writes:

Dear friends:

When I make a mistake I want to report it to those I furnished erroneous information. There are 15 links on the 1793 US chain cents not 14 as I said.. My eyes are not as sharp as they used to be. Perhaps I forgot how to count.

At least I was right when I said there were improperly 15 stars on the 1792 G. Washington. President. I. Getz pieces because there were only 14 states when they were coined.

Don't count me out yet.

Eric

Joel orosz

Subj: **Re: Secret History of U.S. Mint**  
Date: 3/28/2011 2:27:53 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]  
Dear Ken:

Thanks so much for this very kind note. Coming from a scholar of your caliber and achievements, this is very high praise, indeed, and it is much appreciated. I hope that you have as much fun reading the book as Len and I had in researching and writing it. Please do let us know if you find any errors lurking in the text.

Looking forward to our paths crossing again soon--perhaps in Baltimore this weekend?

Warm regards,

Joel

On Mon, Mar 28, 2011 at 1:39 PM, Kenneth Bressett [REDACTED]

> Gentlemen,

>

>

>

> I have just received a copy of your new book on the history of the first

> U.S. Mint. Wow! I am exhausted just thinking about all of the work that you

> did in researching this project. While I have only had time to scan through

> it at this point, I can see that I am in for some delightful reading into

> these uncharted waters.

>

>

>

> My congratulations to you for this momentous accomplishment, and my good

> wishes for the success of the book. I am sure it will immediately become a

> cornerstone of information about American numismatics. It is truly a job

> well done, and something of which you can be proud of forever.

>

>

> With all good wishes. —Ken Bressett



3101 Clairmont Rd. • Suite C • Atlanta, Georgia 30329 • phone: 404-235-5300 • fax: 404-235-5350

March 2011

Good afternoon,

I hope this note finds you well.

I'm pleased to enclose a contributor's copy of *The Secret History of the First U.S. Mint: How Frank H. Stewart Destroyed—And Then Saved—A National Treasure*. This is sent to you with the compliments of coauthors Joel J. Orosz and Leonard Augsburger, and everyone at Whitman Publishing.

*The Secret History of the First U.S. Mint* adds immeasurably to our nation's body of numismatic literature. Such an accomplishment requires the assistance, cooperation, and generosity of talented contributors, and for this we're grateful. Thank you for your help in bringing this important book to publication.

Best wishes,

Dennis Tucker  
Publisher, Whitman Publishing, LLC

encl